c) a converter, arranged to convert the third digital information data generated by said encoder, into fourth digital information data that plural samples are expressed with N bits; and

d) an error correction unit, arranged to selectively add an error correction check code to the second digital information data and the fourth digital information data,

said error correction unit performing a common addition processing irrespectively of second digital information data and the fourth digital information data. --.

Amend claim 32 as follows:

-- 32. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein said encoder encodes the first digital information data to be encoded by differential pulse code modulation.--.

Amend claim 33 as follows:

-- 33. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 31, wherein the second digital information data is a television signal in which a video signal and an audio signal are time-division multiplexed. --.

Cancel claim 36.

Amend claim 37 as follows:

-- 37. (Twice Amended) A digital information coding method, comprising:

selectively inputting first digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits and second digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits;

encoding the first digital information data to generate third digital information data that